

Civil Air Patrol

Southwest Region Headquarters
Office of Public Affairs
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Lt Col Paul Spencer

Paul Spencer's interest in aviation dates back to early childhood. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Air Force and began his career in aviation. After completing Basic Training and Technical Training, He was assigned to the 42nd Bomb Wing (SAC) at Loring AFB, ME as an aircraft electrician. During his time as an aircraft mechanic, he worked on B-52s, C-141s, C-5s, F-4s, KC-135s, HH-3s, and HH-53, and several test-bed aircraft. After more than seven years working on aircraft, he re-trained into the Digital Flight Simulator Technician field. After an initial assignment to Cannon AFB, NM, he became the Development Technician for the F-111D Simulators, working with the Tactical Air Warfare Center at Eglin AFB, FL. After nearly four years at Cannon and leading several modifications to the two simulators there, he relocated to Eglin and became Deputy Project Manager for the new EF-111 Simulators being build by AAI Corporation, serving through the initial delivery of the \$92 million training devices. Where upon, he re-trained again, becoming a Flight Engineer on the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Aircraft (AWACS). Within 18 months, Paul upgraded to an Instructor Engineer. During his time as an Engineer, deployments took him all over the US and Alaska, Iceland, Europe, and Saudi Arabia. As Paul was ending his career in the Air Force, his daughter expressed an interest in aviation. As such, he joined the Civil Air Patrol. Paul retired for the Air Force with over twenty-one years active service as a Senior Master Sergeant.

Paul joined Civil Air Patrol at the Oklahoma City Composite Squadron #2 in April 1989, eighteen months before leaving active duty with the Air Force. During his time at the squadron level, he held positions such as Finance Officer and Deputy Commander for Cadets. He also became a CAP Pilot, flying his PA-28-235 aircraft on several missions. After three years at the squadron level, he was asked to join the Oklahoma Wing Staff as the Emergency Services Officer, an Office he still holds today. Over his almost fifteen years on the Oklahoma Wing Staff, he has served as the Counter Drug Officer, Assistant Finance Officer, Director of Operations, Director of Communications, and Chief of Staff. Paul is a Type One Incident Commander and has been Incident Commander on over 150 missions including more that 15 missing aircraft searches.

In 2007, the Southwest Region Commander asked Paul to join the SWR Staff as the Counter Drug and Homeland Security Officer and later as the Emergency Services Officer. Paul is also an Operations Specialist with the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 6 Headquartered in Denton, Texas.

Paul and his wife Lt Col Debora Spencer live in Krugerville, Texas.